

Category:

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Introduction:

1. This past year our college students began a Bible study on the Lamar University campus. This has been a great opportunity for them to reach out to their peers and to study from God's word. As we concluded the last study for this semester, one of our students, Brittany Beall, told us of a conversation which she had with one of her professors. The professor was going over a timeline of when certain events occurred in earth's history. This timeline was based from the viewpoint of evolution. He mentioned how dinosaurs came millions of years before man. However, in that class there were some students like Brittany who professed their belief in the creation account found in Genesis 1. The professor continued to insist that evolution was correct. Thinking this was sufficient, the professor then challenged those who believed in the creation account to explain why they did. It was Brittany who then pointed to her Bible and said, "God told me in the Bible humans were made within the six days along with everything else which was made." She expressed her belief that man and dinosaurs were on the earth at the same time. What a great example of professing our faith in the word of God. This answer should have been enough for the professor.
2. This response was not what the professor wanted to hear. When challenged about the creation account in Genesis, the professor acknowledged his belief in both the creation story and in evolution. But he also said that too many people take Genesis 1 too literal. He emphasized that the days in chapter 1 should not be viewed as literal days but millions of years. It's clear what the professor was attempting to do. He was trying to put the theory of evolution and the creation account found in Genesis 1 together. The end result when one does this is called theistic evolution. In the word "theistic" we have the word "theos" which refers to God. When people believe this, they believe God got things started in the beginning and then allowed evolution to do its thing. But there are problems which arise when one holds this view. I want us to examine the problem with the professor. This idea may not be one that we hear frequently, but it's one that many hold. There are many problems with theistic evolution.

The Lesson:

I. The time problem

- A. The professor believes that the word "day" refers to millions of years and not a literal 24-hour period.
 1. There are many who question what the word "day" refers to. Is it a literal day or millions of years? A bigger question to consider is why does the professor teach that this word is referring to millions of years?
 2. Because it gives the evolutionist what he needs, and that is time. It allows him to teach how dinosaurs lived and died millions of years prior to men being on the earth, while still trying to keep Genesis 1. This is the time problem the professor has.
- B. The Bible can't be reconciled with this view.
 1. This view has a problem with the words of Moses. Genesis 1 can't be any clearer. Moses used the "evening" and "morning" terminology throughout the chapter to describe a specified period of time. Moses also made a distinction between days and years (Genesis 1:14). If the word "days" in Genesis 1 does not refer to a literal 24-hour period, then what does the word "years" refer to? The Jews understood what Moses meant when he used the word "days" in (Exodus 20:8, 11). The Sabbath day was an ordinary 24-hour day which the Jews could identify. If the seventh day was ordinary and identifiable, then what would make us believe the other six days weren't? This would be impossible if the word "day" referred to millions of years as the professor claims.
 2. This view also has a problem with the words of Jesus. In Matthew 19:4 Jesus puts His stamp of approval on the creation account. Jesus affirms what Moses wrote about the creation account. He believed that Adam and Eve were there in the beginning. What's so significant about this? Don't forget that those who believe in theistic evolution believe man came millions of years after the beginning. Jesus says that man was there at the beginning. This is a major problem for the professor.
- C. We have a case in the Bible where it certainly appears that man and dinosaurs occupied the earth together.
 1. In the book of Job, we see God speaking to Job and showing Him his power (Job 38-40). God speaks of His power in creating the earth and everything in it. Beginning in chapter 38, God speaks to Job about the amazing animals He's created. God reminds Job about the lion, raven, mountain goat, deer, donkey, wild ox, ostrich, horse, hawk, and the eagle (Job 38:39-39:30). Then in chapter 40 God challenges Job again. He tells Job to look at the behemoth. If you have a Bible like mine, you probably have a center reference. What does it say about this animal? My reference describes it as a large unknown animal. It's an animal that's unknown to us because it's now extinct, but it wasn't in the days of Job. The way this animal is described fits the description of a brontosaurus or something similar to it (Job 40:15-24). Then in chapter 41 God tells Job to consider another animal He made: Leviathan. This animal is described as being large and ferocious (Job 41).
 2. These examples provide for us evidence of man and dinosaurs being on the earth at the same time.

3. The problem with the professor is that he's viewing the scriptures through the lenses of evolution. There's no reason in Genesis 1 to say that dinosaurs came millions of years prior to man. However, there is evidence in the Bible to affirm that man and dinosaurs did at one time live on the earth together. The only reason why some may not believe this is because it would prove evolution to be wrong.
4. This is a major problem for the professor. But this isn't the only problem the professor has.

II. The sequence problem

- A. The order or sequence of evolution is not compatible with the Bible.
 1. Remember, the professor tries to fit the Bible and evolution together.
 2. If you were to ask someone who believes in evolution about how everything began, many would describe how there was some big puddle of slime where the first living organism came from. From that there's a sequence of events leading all the way up to man. However, this is conflicting with the creation account. In fact, as one compares the two, one will see major differences.
 - a. The Bible teaches God brought everything into existence (Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-3). Evolution can't provide an answer of how everything began. Evolution can only provide possibilities. That presents a problem with compatibility.
 - b. The Bible teaches birds came first and then land creatures (reptiles) came next (Genesis 1:20-26). Evolutionists have this backwards. Evolutionists teach that birds evolved from these land creatures (reptiles). That presents a problem with compatibility.
 - c. The Bible teaches that the first man was created (Genesis 1:26; 1 Corinthians 15:45). Evolution claims that the first man evolved from something that was not man. That presents a problem with compatibility.
- B. The professor has a major problem.
 1. The problem is evolution and Genesis 1 are not compatible. The professor is attempting to stay in the middle (theistic evolution) which he can't do.
 2. The fact of the matter is there's no middle ground when it comes to this discussion. We need to know that evolution is a myth which has been forced fed to our society for decades now. The problems for the professor are mounting. But this is not all, there's another problem.

III. The evidence problem

- A. The problem with the professor is that there's a lack of evidence for the theory of evolution.
 1. Most people believe that there are tons of evidence for the theory of evolution, therefore making it a fact. They don't know what it is, but they believe the evidence is there. They believe the professor because of his stature, even though he can't give detailed evidence.
 2. People accept as a foregone conclusion that evolution is true, even though there's no evidence proving it. If we believe evolution is true, and if we believe the Bible to be true, then we have to make the Bible fit evolution. That's what the professor is trying to do. The problem with this is that evolution is a "theory" and not a "fact."
 3. There's no evidence which proves evolution or demonstrates that it is a fact. Thus, there's no need to concede or modify the Bible to fit evolution.
- B. Don't feel compelled to alter your view of the Bible.
 1. You are going to have professors, high school teachers, and even friends that may try to pressure you into giving up your belief in the Bible account of creation. This is exactly what the professor attempted to do with Brittany.
 2. We must stand on the word of God because it is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

Conclusion:

1. We need to be like the men we read in the Bible who believed in the creation account.
 - a. Dare to be like Moses who believed in the creation account (Exodus 20:8, 11).
 - b. Dare to be like Jesus who put His stamp of approval on the creation account (Matthew 19:4).
 - c. Dare to be like Paul who believed in the creation account (1 Corinthians 15:45). Dare to be like Paul who reminded the younger Christians the truth about the creation account (1 Timothy 2:13-14). Dare to be like Paul and teach those of the world the truth about God and His creation (Acts 17:24-26).
2. Evolution and the creation account in the scriptures are not compatible. This is the problem for the professor. This will be a problem for us when we stand before God, if we allow the world to sway us from the clear teachings of our Creator. It's impossible to please God without faith (Hebrews 11:6). Our faith must be rooted and grounded in God's word.